

# “WE’VE MOVED ON,” SAYS BISHOP MARK LAWRENCE

WE ARE SOME OF THE MANY CLERGY IN THE DIOCESE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, WHO AFFIRM OUR SUPPORT OF AND STAND WITH OUR BISHOP, THE RT. REV. MARK J. LAWRENCE.



## Special Convention Affirms Disassociation from the Episcopal Church

### Approves Canonical and Constitutional Amendments

On Saturday, November 17, 2012, the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of South Carolina met in Special Convention at the “mother church of the Diocese,” historic St. Philip’s Church in Charleston. There, an overwhelming majority passed three resolutions.

#### Disassociation

The first resolution affirmed the act of disassociation taken by the Bishop and Standing Committee of the Diocese, in response to actions of The Episcopal Church (TEC). Though it was a voice vote, only one “nay” was heard.

#### Amendments to the Diocesan Constitution

The second resolution also passed on first reading. It approved amendments to the Diocesan Constitution removing all reference to the Constitution of the Episcopal Church. On this voice vote only two “nays” were heard.

#### Amendments to the Diocesan Canons

The final vote, which was by orders, was for approval of amendments to the diocesan canons, likewise removing all such reference to the Episcopal Church. It passed with an overwhelming vote of 96% (71 clergy) in the clergy order, with 3 abstaining. In the lay order, the vote passed with 90% in favor (47 voting yes with 5 abstentions).

### “We’ve moved on!” says Lawrence

“Ask yourself, ‘How long do I want to spend my time, my soul and my energy in a resistance movement that has proven so fruitless?’” Lawrence asked those gathered in his address to the Convention. “Isn’t it time to get on with the ministry of Jesus Christ to a broken world?”

“We shall turn the page with hearts wide open... We shall move on. Actually, let me state it more accurately. We have moved on. With the Standing Committee’s resolution of disassociation the fact is accomplished: legally and canonically. The resolutions before you this day are affirmations of that fact.”

The Bishop called those gathered to look forward. “I will be calling together a task force to link stronger parishes with congregations and missions in the diocese that may suffer the loss of members due to this departure from the Episcopal Church. If a smaller parish has lost 10, 20 or 30 percent of its membership it may not be able to afford a full time priest. So while continuing to keep the door ajar for disaffected parishioners to return, we need to find ways to enable that congregation to continue to support their rector or vicar; and not merely in order to keep ply wood from the windows but in order to reach their community for Christ and to grow his Church. That is what it is about. Let’s get on with it.”

“We need to explore new ways of preparing young men and women and even middle-age ones for ministry;” he continued, “especially those who know how to travel light. It is a new day and new ways of proclaiming the old truths need to be adopted.”

“Finally,” he said “I turn to our place in the worldwide Anglican Communion... We have heard from Archbishops, Presiding Bishops, and Diocesan Bishops from Kenya to Singapore, England to Egypt, Ireland to the Indian Ocean, Canada to Australia. They represent the overwhelmingly vast majority of members of the Anglican Communion and they consider me as a faithful Anglican Bishop in good standing and they consider this Diocese as part of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. Ah friends, this has got to comfort us... We are not alone. Greater are those with us than any who may be against us.”

In an earlier letter to the Diocese, Lawrence cautioned members to “be aware that the national leadership of the Episcopal Church is taking steps to undermine this Diocese. What we are faced with is an intentional effort by the ill-advised TEC organization to assume our identity, one that we have had since 1785. While I am saddened that several are friends with whom I have worked side by side in various committees or projects, I cannot agree with their decision to undermine the life of this Diocese of South Carolina or my leadership as bishop. This misuse of the diocesan seal and the diocesan name is a denial of the good faith and fair dealing expected of all institutions engaging either in public communication or commerce. It is especially disconcerting for those who profess and call themselves Christians. Not only is it morally questionable; it is something for which they can be held accountable.

“So be alert. I assure you, we continue to be The Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of South Carolina, known also to our parishes and the wider community as The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina, and more simply, the Diocese of South Carolina of which I am the XIV Bishop in succession.

“We are still here and by God’s grace we shall not only endure we shall prevail.”

To read or watch a video of Bishop Lawrence’s address, to view a Frequently Asked Question sheet or to simply learn more about the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina visit [www.dioceseofsc.org](http://www.dioceseofsc.org).

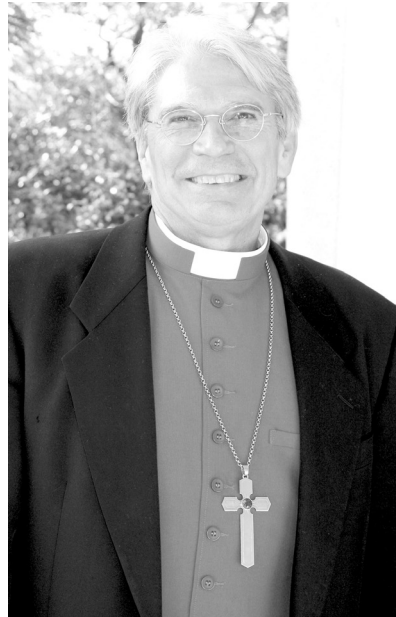


Photo: Sue Careless

#### Beaufort, SC St. Helena’s

*The Rev. Jeff Miller*  
*The Rev. Mark Avera*  
*The Rev. Chad Lawrence*  
*The Rt. Rev.*  
*Alden Hathaway*  
*The Rev. Mark Warter*  
*The Rev. Chuck Pollak*

#### Bluffton, SC The Church of the Cross

*The Very Rev. Chuck Owens*  
*The Rev. Jonathan Riddle*

#### Charleston The Cathedral of St. Luke and St. Paul

*The Very Rev. Peet Dickinson*  
*The Rev. David Adams*

#### Holy Trinity Church

*The Rev. David Dubay,*

#### The Church of the Good Shepherd

*The Rev. Shay Gaillard*

#### St. Philip’s Church

*The Rev. Haden McCormick*  
*The Rev. Matthew McCormick*  
*The Rev. Hank Avent*  
*The Rev. Jack Owens*  
*The Rev. Brian McGreevy*

#### St. John’s Chapel

*The Rev. Dallas Wilson*

#### St. Michael’s Church

*The Rev. Al Zadig*  
*The Very Rev.*  
*Dr. Peter C. Moore*  
*The Rev. Ted McNabb*  
*The Rev. Hamilton Smith*  
*The Rev. David Booman*  
*The Rt. Rev. Alex Dickson*  
*The Rev. Canon Douglas Peterson*

#### Conway, SC St. Paul’s Church

*The Rev. Tripp Jeffords*  
*The Rev. Jason Collins*  
*The Rev. Dawn Rider*  
*The Rev. Ann Boutcher*

#### Darlington, SC Saint Matthew’s Church

*The Rev. Andrew O’Dell*

#### Dillon St. Barnabas

*The Rev. Fred Gough*

#### Edisto Trinity

*The Rev. Weyman Camp*

#### Eutawville, SC Church of the Epiphany

*The Rev. Thomas Hendrickson*

#### Florence, SC All Saints Church

*The Rev. Karl Burns*  
*The Rev. Dick Archer*

#### Florence, SC St. John’s Church

*The Rev. Ken Weldon*  
*The Rev. Kay Fryman*  
*The Rev. Luke Lucas*

#### Fort Motte, SC St. Matthew’s Church

*The Rev. Michael Hub*

#### Georgetown, SC Prince George Winyah

*The Very Rev. Paul Fuener*  
*The Rev. Matt Schneider*  
*The Rt. Rev.*  
*C. FitzSimons Allison*

#### Grahamville, SC Holy Trinity Church

*The Rev. Robert Horn*

#### Hartsville, SC St. Bartholomew’s

*The Rev. Michael Ridgill*  
*The Rev. Canon Michael Malone*

#### Hilton Head Island, SC St. Luke’s Church

*The Rev. Greg Kronz*

#### James Island, SC Saint James Church

*The Rev. Arthur Jenkins*  
*The Rev. Louise Weld*  
*The Rev. Ron Warfuel*

#### John’s Island, SC St. John’s Parish

*The Rev. Greg Snyder*  
*The Rev. Dagnall Free*  
*The Rev. Charlie Walton*

#### Church of Our Savior

*The Rev. Mike Clarkson*

#### Myrtle Beach, SC Trinity Church

*The Rev. Iain Boyd*  
*The Rev. Suzanne Tata*

#### The Well-by-the-Sea

*The Rev. Tom Woodlee*

#### Orangeburg, SC Church of the Redeemer

*The Rev. Frank Larisey*

#### St. Paul’s Church

*The Rev. Jimmy Gallant*

#### Pawley’s Island Christ the King

*The Rev. Christopher Royer*  
*The Rev. Ramsey Gilchrist*

#### Pineville, SC Church of the Redeemer

*The Rev. John Bowden*

#### Pinopolis, SC Trinity Church

*The Rev. Hal Fenters*

#### Seabrook Island St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center

*The Rev. Bob Lawrence*

#### Sullivan’s Island, SC Church of the Holy Cross

*The Rev. Chris Warner*  
*The Rev. Greg Smith*

#### Summerton, SC St. Matthias Church

*The Very Rev. David Thurlow*

#### Summerville, SC St. Paul’s Church

*The Rev. Mike Lumpkin*  
*The Rev. Tyler Prescott*  
*The Rev. John Scott*  
*The Rev. Fred Berkaw*

#### Sumter, SC Holy Comforter

*The Very Rev. John Barr*  
*The Rev. Marcus Kaiser*

#### Walterboro, SC St. Jude’s Church

*The Rev. Bob Horowitz*

#### Yonges Island, SC Christ-St. Paul’s

*The Very Rev. Craig Borrett*  
*The Rev. Canon Dr. Kendall Harmon*

#### Other Canonical Clergy

*The Rev. Richard Belser*  
*The Rev. Dana Boynton*  
*The Rev. Martha Horn*  
*The Rev. Canon Jim Lewis*  
*The Rev. Linda Manuel*  
*The Very Rev. William McKeachie*  
*The Rev. Dr. Bill Rhett*